

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 191411Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4296

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOALSE

UNCLAS ANKARA 5526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT:PRESS TREATMENT OF THE SISMIK I AND THE GREEK-
TURKISH DISPUTE

1. THE TURKISH SURVEY SHIP SISMIK I AND THE INCREASED
TENSION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY SURROUNDING ITS PROSPECTIVE
ENTRY INTO THE AEGEAN DOMINATED NEWS COVERAGE JULY 17-19.
THE REPORTS FEATURED STATEMENTS BY GREEK LEADERS AND THE
GREEK PRESS AS WELL AS FURTHER STATEMENTS BY PRIMIN DEMIREL
AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL.

2. DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS JULY 17 THAT "IF I SAID THE
HORA WILL GO INTO THE AEGEAN, SHE WILL GO. SHE WILL GO
WHETHER I SAY IT ONCE OR TEN TIMES." ANSWERING A QUESTION
ABOUT THE GOG STATEMENT OF JULY 16 CALLING ON THE GOT TO
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"DROP THIS PLAN" TO "PROSPECT IN AN AREA WHERE THEY HAVE

NO RIGHT," DEMIREL SAID, "THE PLACES WHERE THE HORA IS TO GO DO NOT BELONG TO GREECE."

3. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL SAID TO REPORTERS JULY 18 THAT "WE CAN HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT PROSPECTING, AS WE DO ABOUT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. I SEE NOTHING IN THE NATURE OF ACTIVISM IN THE GREEK OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WILL UNDERGO A NEW TEST OF WHETHER REASON OR EMOTION WILL DOMINATE OUR CONDUCT. I RESERVE OUR VIEW THAT OUR PROSPECTING CAN BE NO REASON FOR AN INCIDENT WITH OUR NEIGHBOR."

4. IN OTHER PRESS REPORTS:

A. MANY PAPERS NOTED THAT THE AEGEAN ARMY AND SOME AIR BASES WERE ON STAND-BY ALERT. ASKED ABOUT THESE REPORTS, GEN. SANCAR (CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF) STATED "THAT IS OUR BUSINESS. IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR US NOT TO START SCREAMING AS THE GREEKS ARE DOING."

B. CUMHURIYET REPORTED ON JULY 17 THAT GREECE HAD INFORMED THE USG AND USSR THAT IT WOULD USE FORCE TO PREVENT THE SISMİK I FROM SAILING IN WATERS CLAIMED BY GREECE. THE JULY 19 HURRIYET HEADLINED "CARAMANLIS: 'WE WILL SINK THE HORA'."

C. MILLİYET JULY 18 REPORTED THAT "OFFICIAL SOURCES" SAID THE SISMİK WOULD SAIL ON JULY 18 OR 19. (HOWEVER, JULY 19 MILLİYET STATED THAT THE SAILING HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL JULY 27 AND THAT THE VESSEL WOULD CONDUCT ITS INITIAL ACTIVITIES IN PREVIOUSLY UNEXPLORED TURKISH PETROLEUM OFFICE (TPAO) LICENSE AREAS IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS BETWEEN SAROS BAY AND BOZCAADA BEFORE ENTERING THE HIGH SEAS OF THE AEGEAN.)

D. CONCERNING SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE SHIP, MILLİYET REPORTED JULY 18 TH "OFFICIAL SOURCES" SAID THAT "THE FACT THAT THE SHIP IS NOT SAILING UNDER NAVY ESCORT DOES NOT MEAN THAT SHE WILL NOT BE PROTECTED. THERE WILL BE ALL SORTS OF LINKS WITH THE SHIP AND INTELLIGENCE

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CONCERNING HER." AMPLIFYING THE STORY THE FOLLOWING DAY, MILLİYET REPORTED THAT THE SISMİK I, IN THE EVENT OF ANY INTERFERENCE, WOULD BE PROTECTED BY TURKISH AIR FORCE PLANES AT BASES "TEN MINUTES AWAY."

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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